

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 10: Cancelled

11. (New) A firing module, comprising:

a housing mountable on a carrier structure so as to be rotatable in azimuth;

a heavy weapon mounted in said housing so as to be pivotable in elevation about a trunnion;

a shell supply mechanism that operates fully automatically for supplying shells to said weapon, wherein said shell supply mechanism is provided with a shell transfer arm that is pivotably mounted on said trunnion, wherein a shell ram having a loading tray is disposed on a free end of said shell transfer arm, and wherein said shell transfer arm is pivotable between a raised position, in which said loading tray is aligned with a gun bore axis of said weapon, parallel to a plane of elevation, and a lowered position, in which said loading tray is essentially vertical;

a shell transporter having a shell transport arm, on a free end of which is provided a gripping mechanism for grasping a respective shell that is vertically stored in at least one ammunition magazine, tip pointing upwardly, and for supplying said shell from said shell transporter, to said loading tray, in said lowered position of said shell transfer arm, wherein said at least one ammunition magazine and said shell transporter are disposed in said housing in a region ahead of said trunnion, and wherein said loading tray, on said shell transfer arm, is pivotable about a pivot axis, which in said lowered position of said shell transfer arm is essentially vertical, by at least 180° between a receiving position, which opens to a region ahead of said trunnion, and a delivery position, which opens to a region behind said trunnion;

at least one propellant charge magazine disposed in said housing in a region next to or behind said trunnion; and

a propellant charge supply mechanism that operates fully automatically and is disposed in said housing for supplying propellant charges to said weapon, wherein said propellant charge supply mechanism is provided with a propellant charge supply tray; having a propellant charge ram, and wherein said propellant charge supply tray is pivotable into a region behind said weapon and in alignment with said gun bore axis of said weapon.

12. (New) A firing module according to claim 11, wherein said at least one propellant charge magazine is fixedly disposed on said housing, wherein said propellant charge supply mechanism is provided with at least one propellant charge transfer arm that is pivotably mounted on said trunnion and on a free end of which are disposed said propellant charge supply tray and said propellant charge ram, and wherein said propellant charge transfer arm is pivotable between a receiving position, in which propellant charges can be supplied to said propellant charge supply tray, parallel to said plane of elevation, and a delivery position, in which said propellant charge supply tray, via a pivot arm, in a plane perpendicular to said gun bore axis of said weapon, is pivotable into a position that is in alignment with said gun bore axis of said weapon.

13. (New) A firing module according to claim 11, wherein said at least one propellant charge magazine is secured to said weapon, wherein said propellant charge supply mechanism is provided with a propellant charge supply arm that is pivotable about an axis parallel to said gun bore axis of said weapon and on a free end of which are disposed said propellant charge supply tray and said propellant charge ram, and wherein said propellant charge supply arm is pivotable between a receiving position, in which propellant charges can be supplied to said propellant charge supply tray, in a plane perpendicular to said gun bore axis of said weapon, and

a delivery position, in which said propellant charge supply tray is aligned with said gun bore axis of said weapon.

14. (New) A firing module according to claim 12, wherein said at least one propellant charge magazine is embodied for receiving propellant charge modules and is provided with devices for delivering a prescribed number of said propellant charge modules, which are adapted to be disposed one after another in said propellant charge supply tray.

15. (New) A firing module dependent on claim 13, wherein said at least one propellant charge magazine is embodied for receiving propellant charge modules and is provided with devices for delivering a prescribed number of said propellant charge modules, which are adapted to be disposed one after another in said propellant charge supply tray.

16. (New) A firing module according to claim 11, which includes two propellant charge magazines, and wherein a respective propellant charge supply mechanism is associated with each propellant charge magazine.

17. (New) A firing module according to claim 11, wherein said at least one propellant charge magazine is embodied as a compartment magazine in which propellant charge modules are disposed one above the other in individual compartments, and wherein said propellant charge modules are adapted to be cyclically delivered from each individual compartment.

18. (New) A firing module according to claim 11, wherein said at least one propellant charge magazine is embodied as a circulating band magazine in which propellant charge modules are stored on individually circulating bands, and wherein said propellant charge modules are adapted to be cyclically delivered from each band.

19. (New) A firing module according to claim 11, wherein an apportioning station is disposed at each propellant magazine, wherein a desired number of propellant charge modules are delivered into said apportioning station from said at least one propellant charge magazine,

and wherein said propellant charge modules are transferred from said apportioning station into said propellant charge supply tray.

20. (New) A firing module according to claim 19, wherein, with the use of propellant charge modules that are placed in one another, a placing together of said propellant charge modules is effected is said apportioning station.

21. (New) A firing module according to claim 11, wherein said shell supply mechanism and said propellant charge supply mechanism are provided with automatically controllable drive means and control means that are adapted to be controlled from an operating station disposed externally of said housing.